

Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 NEA-10 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03

LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02

SS-20 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

FEA-02 OMB-01 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /203 W

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R 151732Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1120

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 04190

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, EC, COMECON

SUBJECT: EC-COMECON CONTACTS

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REF: A. BRUSSELS 962; B. EC BRUSSELS 1466

1. FREITAG OF THE FRG FOREIGN OFFICE TOLD US THE SOAMES' INITIATIVE AT THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING, REPORTED IN REFTEL B, WAS UNDERTAKEN AT THE FRG'S REQUEST. FREITAG NOTED THAT THE FRG HAD RECEIVED REPORTS THAT A NUMBER OF EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WERE DISSATISFIED WITH THE INITIAL, CAUTIOUS EC RESPONSE SINCE THIS PERMITTED THE SOVIETS TO ARGUE THAT THE EC WAS NOT REALLY INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING CLOSER RELATIONS WITH EASTERN EUROPE. CONSEQUENTLY, THE COUNCIL WILL TAKE UP THIS ISSUE AT ITS APRIL 2-3 MEETING IN BRUSSELS.

2. THE FRG PROPOSAL IS THAT THE EC REITERATE ITS EARLIER RESPONSE, PERHAPS IN A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT FORM. IT HOPES THAT THIS WOULD ELIMINATE THE PRETEXT USED BY THE SOVIETS TO INHIBIT INDIVIDUAL EASTERN EUROPEAN STATES FROM RESPONDING TO THE EC INITIATIVE. FREITAG SUSPECTED THAT THE FRENCH ARE COOL TO THIS GERMAN INITIATIVE ALTHOUGH HE HAD NO EXPLANATION FOR THE FRENCH ATTITUDE.

3. IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF'S QUESTION, FREITAG SAID THAT IT REMAINS FRG POLICY THAT ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH THE EAST SHOULD BE CONDUCTED PRIMARILY BETWEEN THE EC AS A UNIT AND INDIVIDUAL EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. HE WAS NOT OVERLY OPTIMISTIC AT THE PROSPECTS FOR IMPLEMENTING SUCH A POLICY, HOWEVER. HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

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